

February 3, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission:

I strongly support SBC's application to compete for long distance customers in Michigan. Increasing competition will bring greater value to consumers and give them the same choices that residents in more than a dozen states already are enjoying. As a lifelong resident of Michigan and a State Representative, I am well aware of the need for fair and full telecommunications competition.

Throughout my tenure serving the State of Michigan, I have taken a particular interest in consumer protection issues. Protecting consumer's interest means giving them the power to choose, the power to save money and the freedom to secure the best deals for their lifestyles. Granting SBC's long distance application will do exactly that.

I commend the Michigan Public Service Commission for ensuring Michigan's local telephone market is open to competition. In the past two years we've seen local competition grow in Michigan. In addition, it is my understanding that SBC received good grades on the company's systems that support local phone competition.

I hope the next step in this process is the FCC's approval of the application, granting final approval. I wish you the best of luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,

MARY D. WATERS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
FOURTH DISTRICT